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GRAIN PROGRAM TO TEST  
COMMUNIST ADMINISTRATION

COMING MONTHS WILL TELL -- Hsin-sheng Wan-pao, 2 Jan 50

Kuang-chou -- The attitude of the Kwangtung people toward the Chinese Communists will be determined mainly by how well the CCP can succeed in administering the grain-requisitioning program during the coming months.

One Kuomintang official, who was in charge of the food administration in Kwangtung, stated that, aside from the years of calamities or of large harvests, the province usually has a shortage of more than 798,000 tons of grain annually. Part of this shortage was replenished by importing about 266,000 tons from abroad. Today, the Communist authorities will have a difficult time if they try to get grain from abroad through blockaded Shan-t'ou and ports on the Chu Chiang.

These Communist authorities believe that shortages can be replenished by securing grain from Hunan Province over the Yueh-Han Railroad. "However," the same Kuomintang official stated, "obtaining grain from adjoining provinces will not be sufficient. Past records show that the most that Kwangtung Province can get from Hunan is about 20,000 to 34,000 tons monthly /sic/. Only about 6,650 tons can be obtained each month from Kiangsi Province."

Therefore, it will be interesting to watch how well the Communist authorities can control the hoarding and the requisitioning of grain, beginning in January 1950.

LACK ENOUGH CADRES -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 5 Jan 50

Kuang-chou, 4 January -- Starting 1 January 1950, the Communist authorities in Kwangtung Province began to requisition grain and to prevent hoarding.

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Since there are not enough cadres to carry out hoarding control and requisitioning of grain, the local authorities have organized training classes for new cadre workers.

#### CONDEMN UNFAIR REQUISITION OF GRAIN -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 5 Jan 50

This correspondent recently visited the newly liberated areas of South China to learn the actual conditions in rural areas. The chief complaint against the Communists is that the farmers' grain stockpile is being taken away irrationally by cadre workers. When this action is opposed, the cadre workers insist that by contributing grain the farmers are helping the front-line troops.

An example of how the Communist cadre workers operate in requisitioning grain is illustrated by one of the peasants' conferences this correspondent attended recently. Such a meeting is presided over by cadres, and the village populace is required to attend. A large blackboard is usually placed in front. Some representatives of poor peasants working for the cadres are planted among the audience to speak up at opportune moments to help enforce grain requisition from land-owners.

At this certain village conference, names of village landowners were listed on the blackboard. There was, for example, the name of one person who owns 5 acres, has eight dependents, and has an annual yield of 60 piculs. He was required to give 40 piculs. When the man objected because he was unable to give that much, he was reprimanded.

Another person, listed as owning 3 acres, with six dependents, and doing business outside the village, was forced to contribute 20 piculs.

Next, there was the name of Ts'ao Pe-wan, the richest man in the village owning 16 acres of land. A question mark was written after his name. The cadre chairman asked him how much he actually owned, Ts'ao honestly answered that he owned 16 acres. At that moment, the representatives of poor peasants went into action. One stood up and said, "He is lying to the People's government. He owns 160 acres." Another rose and shouted, "He is a human maggot. A couple of years ago, I borrowed 2 piculs of grain from him and he insisted that I give him my cow for payment."

The cadre chairman said, "In that case, you must give 1,000 piculs of grain. This is your 'glorious duty.'"

After the conference, this correspondent overheard Ts'ao remark disgustedly, "'Glorious duty'? I don't know how I can give 1,000 piculs of grain."

The representatives of poor peasants were whispering to each other triumphantly, "Well, we did our 'glorious duty', didn't we?"

When the villagers heard of this underhanded action of the representatives, they were very indignant.

#### PEASANTS REDUCE RENT AND INTEREST -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 9 Jan 50

In Hsin-hui Hsien of Kwangtung Province, an assembly of peasants, representing seven village associations, was held recently. Detailed rules for putting into effect the reductions of rent and of interest were decided on. Notification of the decision to reduce rent and interest was to be made to the landlords by the assembly to avoid the evil of apparent and not actual compliance to the order on the part of the landlords.

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At the same time peasants were encouraged to join the assembly under the proviso that of every picul of grain thus saved, 10 catties should be taken out for funds to be spent for the welfare projects of the villages. It was also decided that a certain sum should be set aside for the purchase of newspapers and books to be read and explained to the villagers by the literate.

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